

and *Melaleuca* scrub, I observed birds which I identified as Gilbert Whistlers, but in view of the recorded distribution of the species, I felt some doubt. I am now reasonably confident that I was correct.

1950—Dubbo. Recorded on November 5 by Graham Brown (personal communication) and Max McGarvie. The description of the birds and their call fits the species.

1951—Manildra. Recorded by J. Francis on September 12 (personal communication), in scrub on the Bumberry Range (low hills) about eight miles west of Manildra. Mr. Francis then observed a male, but on subsequent visits failed to find the species.

These records indicate the possibility of the Gilbert Whistler's occurring throughout suitable habitats in the southern half of New South Wales, west of the mountains. It is much more difficult to try to decide whether it is rapidly extending its range or whether it has been overlooked in the past. I am inclined to favour the latter alternative.

THANKS

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Superb Parrot.—I read with interest the account by H. J. Frith and J. H. Calaby in *The Emu* for December 1953.

In July 1945, on the road from Gunnedah to Tamorang, about 26 miles south of Gunnedah, in a belt of yellow box and bibble timber, I saw about 25 or 30 Superb Parrots. They were in small parties of both sexes, scattered along about a half mile of this strip of timber. They were mostly on the ground feeding, but when disturbed they flew up on to low branches of the trees. They were very tame and close inspection was possible. I saw small parties of them frequently over the next two months. I have lived in this district all my life and have never seen them here before or since.

The year 1945 was a bad drought year in the Riverina and we were having a very good season that spring, so probably the birds had come up here for the feed.

I hoped that the Superb Parrots would stay around but the season got drier and 1946 was one of the worst droughts we have had. It would be interesting to know if they stayed on some of the north-western rivers or if they went back south again.—J. N. SIMSON, Spring Ridge, N.S.W., 6/2/54.